

Kempston Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1904.

Population of the District.—The population of the district is estimated at 4,729.

Birth Rate.—The births registered for the year were 149, giving a birth rate of 31·5 per 1000, against 29·6 per 1000 in 1903.

Death Rate.—The deaths registered for the year were 45, giving a death rate of 9·5 per 1000, against 9·09 per 1000 in 1903.

Infant Mortality.—The deaths of children under one year have been 13, equal to a proportion of 87 per 1000 births. For 1903 the proportion was 71·9 per 1000 births.

Zymotic Death Rate per 1000.—84. For 1903 the rate was 63 per 1000. Two deaths occurred from Infantile Diarrhoea, 1 from measles and 1 from Puerperal Fever.

Death Rate from Phthisis.—84 per 1000. This is the same as the previous year, and shows an improvement in the rate for 1902, which was 1·2 per 1000.

Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases.—1·4 per 1000. The rate for 1903 was 1·9 per 1000.

Deaths over 65—per centage of total deaths.—31. The rate for 1903 was 20·9.

It is of interest to note that of the 45 deaths registered as belonging to the district, 27 occurred at the extremes of life, viz. : 13 under 1 year, and 14 over 65 years. It will thus be seen that between the ages of 1 and under 65 only 18 deaths occurred.

Prevalence of Disease.—Nine certificates were received under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, as follows:—

Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	2
Scarlet Fever	5
Puerperal Fever	1

The case of Diphtheria was removed to Hospital. The others were successfully isolated at home, removal being refused.

Hospital Accommodation.—Under agreement the Council have the use of the Bedford Rural District Council's Hospital, situated at Oakley Hill.

Renewed efforts have been made to obtain a cottage for the isolation of Small-pox cases, without any satisfactory result. Application was then made to the Bedford Authority for the use of their Small-pox Hospital, in case of need. The application, however, was not entertained.

The Council supply disinfectants, and the rooms and clothing are disinfected with formic aldehyde. Disinfection is carried out after deaths from Phthisis.

No steam disinfectors are as yet available.

Drainage and Water Supply.—The water supply of the district is still derived from the sources mentioned in my previous reports, namely, from wells of various depths, and more or less liable to pollution; in fact, on analysis, the water from some of the wells has been pronounced to be unfit for drinking purposes. Furthermore, in some dry seasons there has been a scarcity of water in some parts of the district. The Inspector informs me that it was necessary, during the month of July last, to supply 46 cottages by means of the water cart.

In my report for the year 1903, I stated that the Council are now endeavouring to obtain a good and plentiful supply by sinking a trial well in the Limestone. At the date of writing (Feb. 3rd, 1904) the well has been sunk to a depth of 42 feet. The strata passed through were found to be:—

- I. Natural Gravel to the depth of 3 feet.
- II. Loamy Clay to a depth of 36 feet;

The remaining three feet being Limestone. Now that the three feet of Limestone have been gone through, water is being pumped by steam power, in order to keep the water under, so that the workmen may be enabled to continue their excavations.

The following statement regarding the trial well is issued by the Council:—

"The Trial Well.—During 1904 the trial well was proceeded with to a depth of 48 feet 3 inches from the surface, and water was found in the Oolite, or Bedford Limestone, at a depth of 44 feet, the thickness of the Oolite being about five to six feet. Below the Limestone, clay was found, and shaly stone, with very little if any water. The Contractor continuously pumped from Feb. 26th to March 21st (20 days) at the rate of about 7,000 gallons per hour, 10 hours a day. At this depth, the Engineer recommended boring a three inch bore hole, 20 feet from the bottom of the well. This was done, and no rock was met with.

"On May 13th, 1904, Mr. Nichols met the Members of the Water Committee on the site, and he then recommended a heading of 30 feet being driven in a southerly direction. This was done—15 fissures being encountered, eight coming from an easterly, and seven from a westerly direction. He expected the well with this heading might yield 75,000 gallons a day—a bare supply of 15 gallons per head on the present population.

"On July 20th the Clerk of the Works reported that the supply was not sufficient for a test. He inspected the well and heading on July 15th, 20th and 23rd, and reported to Messrs. Beesley, Son, & Nichols to this effect by letter dated July 23rd. The Engineer in reply (July 27th) to that report said this might be owing to the long and continued drought.

"On July 25th an exceedingly heavy downfall of rain occurred. Hence when the Engineer visited the well on August 8th he reported that sufficient water was in the well for testing purposes.

"The Council—in view of the report of the Clerk of the Works (July 20th) and the obvious insufficiency of water—decided not to spend further money in applying a test."

Negotiations were then opened, and are now proceeding, with the Biggleswade Water Board for a supply from the Greensand. It is to be hoped that an improved Water Supply may be soon available, as a Drainage Scheme for the District is also much required.

At present the pails are emptied by the Council's employes once, and in some cases where there are large families, twice weekly.

The Council have two Sanitary waggons, force pump and 150 feet of hose, by means of which appliances the cesspools, after being treated with a solution of copperas, are emptied during the daytime. The system appears to act well, and I have received no complaints regarding it.

The contents of the waggons are discharged over agricultural land, situated on the confines of the District.

Factories and Workshops Act.—The Factories and Workshops in the District have been systematically inspected and careful attention given as to cleanliness, air space, ventilation, drainage of floors, sanitary accommodation and safety from fire.

I have to report that these requirements have been duly attended to.

General and House Sanitation.—Mr Inskip, Sanitary Inspector, has handed me the accompanying returns.

Apart from my special visits of inspection, I have made a systematic inspection of the whole district, in company with the Inspector.

No case of overcrowding has been reported, and no house has been closed as unfit for habitation.

In company of the Inspector, I have visited the dairies, cowsheds and slaughterhouses in the district. On the whole I found them to be in a satisfactory condition.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

GEO. BUTTERS, M.B., C.M.,

31st Jan., 1905.

Medical Officer of Health.

Urban Council Offices, Kempston,
January, 1905.

TO THE KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
GENTLEMEN,—

As Sanitary Inspector to your Authority, I have the honour to present for your information the following yearly report :—

Return of Nuisances and other matters dealt with during the year 1904.

Defective or insufficient drains	6
Defective cesspools	2
New closet pails provided, after notice	33
Defective ashpits	1
Notifications of infectious disease received from the Medical Officer	7
Number of cases removed to Hospital	1
Number of Rooms disinfected	6
Number of Rooms disinfected after Phthisis	3
Bakehouses inspected	8
Whitewashing executed, after notice	3
Licensed Slaughter Houses inspected	8
Whitewashing executed, after notice	3
Unregistered Slaughter Houses inspected	2
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	9

The Scavengers have during the year emptied 60,110 pails, 29 privies, 23,734 dust boxes, 517 ash pits, and 2,164 cesspools, making a total of 2,967 loads

The number of cesspools in the District is 604, out of which 558 have been emptied when required, and the remaining 46 are emptied by the occupiers or otherwise dealt with.

I have systematically inspected the District and found the back yards and premises in good order, and have received very few complaints of any nuisances existing, which is very satisfactory.

I would still advise that the closet pails be emptied twice a week, which is necessary, and would be very much appreciated by the inhabitants.

The number of pails emptied weekly is 1212, of which 30 are emptied three times, 215 twice, and 692 once, thus shewing that only one-fourth of the pails in the District are emptied twice.

It was found necessary during the month of July to supply forty-six cottages within the District with water, in consequence of the drought.

The Council use exclusively for scavenging purposes six men and four horses, also two men for highway purposes.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. C. INSKIP.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1897	4000	132	33	21	159	53	13.25				53	13.25
1898	4000	149	37.2	19	127	55	13.7				55	13.7
1899	4450	128	28.7	20	156	71	15.9				71	15.9
1900	4450	140	31.4	27	192	75	16.8				75	16.8
1901	4729	128	27	15	117	69	16.5			9	78	16.4
1902	4729	136	28.7	10	73	66	13.9	3	3	5	68	14.3
1903	4729	139	29.6	10	71.9	42	8.8	1	1	2	43	9.09
Averages for years 1897—1903.	4441	136	30.8	17.4	127.9	61.5	14	2	2	5	63.2	14
1904	4729	149	31.5	13	87	41	8.6	2	2	6	45	9.5

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,204. Total population of all ages (Census, 1901), 4,729.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1901), 939. Average number of persons per house (Census, 1901), 5.

Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Springfield House Private Asylum.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Bedford County Hospital, Bedford Rural Isolation Hospital (Oakley Hill), and Union Workhouse, Bedford.

(The Union Workhouse is not within the District.)

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH
DURING YEAR 1904.

TABLE III.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	No. of cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	1			1		1
Erysipelas	2				2	
Scarlet fever	5	1	4			
Puerperal fever.....	1				1	
Totals	9	1	4	1	3	1

(Isolation Hospital—Bedford Rural District (Oakley Hill).

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS.

Factories (including Factory Laundries)	4
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	12
Total.....	16
Total number of Workshops on Register	12

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO THE WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles.....	1	1						
Diarrhoea	2	2						
Enteritis	1	1						
Puerperal fever	1					1		
Phthisis	4				3	1		
Other tubercular diseases ..	1			1				
Cancer (malignant disease)..	3					3		
Bronchitis.....	5	2	1				2	
Pneumonia	2				1	1		
Premature birth	4	4						
Heart diseases	1						1	
Subdural Abscess	1			1				
Marasmus.....	3	2	1					
Convulsions	1	1						
Senile decay.....	7						7	
All other causes	8				1	3	4	2
All causes	45	13	2	2	5	9	14	2

KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR
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